

For Immediate Release

CHAMBERSBURG, Pennsylvania (October 17, 2014) - Franklin County Department of Emergency Services

Franklin County Department of Emergency Services is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Emergency Health Services Federation to prepare for Ebola and other infectious diseases. While there are currently no identified Ebola risks for our area and this disease is rare, we are making sure to be prepared.

The Ebola virus causes an acute, serious illness that first appeared in 1976. Ebola is spread through human-to-human transmission via direct contact with the blood, sweat, semen, breast milk, saliva, feces or urine of an infected person.

In Franklin County we are using the International Academies of Emergency Dispatch surveillance tool to identify patients who may be at risk for having been exposed to the virus. This initial screening is done during the initial 9-1-1 call. If the caller appears to be at risk, responders and healthcare workers are notified and will take additional precautions and conduct additional screening.

The following steps can help prevent contamination from infection:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Practice good health habits. Get plenty of sleep and exercise, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat healthy food.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.

If you need any additional assistance, please contact the Department of Emergency Services at 717-264 2813.

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